His Majesties most Gracious

LETTER

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND.

WILLIAM R.

My *Lords and Gentlemen*,

THE Continuation of the War, still Hinders Us from Pursuing Our Resolution of being amongst you in Person; And so Obliges Us to Call you together once more in Our Absence. Therefore We have appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, *John* Marquis of *Tweeddale*, to be Our Commissioner, and to Represent Our Person and Authority amongst you. The Proofs he hath given of his Capacity and Experience in Business, as well as of his Fidelity and Zeal, by his many and long Services to the Crown and Nation, and particularly to Us, since We made him Our Chancellor, will Render Him very Acceptable to you. We Desire you to give him Intire Trust and Credit; for We have fully Instructed Him with Our Mind. He has Powers to pass all such Laws for the Good of that Our Ancient Kingdom, as have been proposed to Us at this Time. He is to Ask Nothing of you in Our Name, but that which the Interest of the Countrey makes necessary to be Done; And therefore We need not Mention to you, that the Subsidies for Paying the Forces are now Expired, and that your Peace and Safety Requires the Renewing of them during the War. You will be also Sensible, that there

is a Neceſſity to have the Coaſt and Trade ſecured from Privateers. We are glade of any Appearances of a Diſpoſition to Moderation and Union, about Church Matters; We Hope you will Encourage it, and Promote it, by removing the Subjects of Differences as much as you can.

We are not unmindful of your Letter to *Us* in the cl[illegible] of the laſt Seſſion. The known *Interruptions* We have had in Buſineſs this Winter, have been a great Hinderance to Us, but We are Reſolved to Do whatſoever may be for the Security of the Government, and the Satisfaction of *Our* good *Subjects*. We Recommend to you Calmneſs and Unanimity in your *Proceedings*; and Doubt not, but that you'l Act ſutably to the Confidence We have put in you, in Calling you again in Our Abſence: And that as you have done upon other *Occaſions*, ſo you will upon this, Give Us ſuch Signal Teſtimonies of your Duty and Affection, as will Convince all Men, of the perfect Union and Underſtanding, that is betwixt Us and that Our Ancient Kingdom. Given at Our Court at *Kenſington*, the 17th Day of *April*, 1695. And of Our Reign the 7th Year.

By His Majeſties Command,

J. *Johnſtoun*.

Directed thus,

To the *L*ords Temporal; and the Commiſſioners of Shires and Burghs, *A*ſſembled in *P*arliament of Our *A*ntient Kingdom of *Scotland*.

THE

THE

SPEECH

OF

JOHN *Merquis of* Tweeddale,

His Majesties High Commissioner, to the Parliament *of*

SCOTLAND,

On *Thursday* the Ninth of *May*, 1695.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE great Confidence the King hath in your Affection, and Faithfulness to his Government, and the Trust he reposes in you, doth evidently appear in His calling you so frequently together, during his own necessary *Absence* beyond Sea, as well as His tender Care and Concern for your Safety and Welfare, in minding every thing which may contribute thereto.

Particularly as to the Concerns of the Church, that all Differences about Church-Matters, and amongst Church-Men may be composed; it being *His* Majesties Purpose to maintain *Presbyterian-Government* in the Church of *Scotland*.

And that the Peace and Security of the Kingdom against Forraign Invasion and Intestine Commotion be provided for, by renewing the former, or granting other Supplies for maintaining the Land-Forces, and providing and intertaining a competent Naval Force for the Defence of the Coast, and securing of Trade.

And if you find, it will tend to the *Advancement* of Trade, that an *Act* be passed for the Encouragment of such as shall Acquire and Establish a Plantation in *Affrica* or *America*, or any other part of the World, where Plantations may be lawfully acquired: His Majesty is willing to Declare, that He will grant to the Subjects of this Kingdom, in Favours of those Plantations, such Rights and Priviledges as He doth grant in like Cases to the Subjects of His other Dominions.

And that the Judicatories Higher and Subaltern be so Regulated in their Proceedings, as Justice may be Administred with the greatest Dispatch, and least Charge to the People.

These Things have taken up some part of His *Majesties* Time and Thoughts these Months past, that I have had the Honour to wait upon Him, and

 have

have been frequently Discourſed by Him, and then put in the Method of Inſtructions, and Directions for my Behaviour in the Station He hath honoured me with.

So that *I* can ſay without Flattery, there is nothing that can Contribute to promote the Honour and Intereſt, the Safety and Security of this His Antient Kingdom, which His Majeſty will not concur with you to provide for, and hath not Impowered me to Conſent to.

It remains then, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, for you to take theſe weighty Affairs under Conſideration, and to Conſult of the beſt Ways and Means to enable His Majeſty to perfect ſo good Deſigns.

By granting *Him* Supplies for maintaining the preſent Land-Forces.

And for Providing and Entertaining a Competent Naval-Force, for the *Defence* of the Coaſt, and Securing of Trade: In Order to which, *His* Majeſty hath granted a Commiſſion of Admirality for Managing the Affairs thereof.

Not omitting to take Care for the other unavoidable Contingencies of the Government, wherein the Civil Liſt comes ſhort.

Your Diſpatch of theſe Great Affairs with Chearfulneſs and Alacrity, will perfect a good Underſtanding, and perpetuat a Confidence betwixt the King and you.

The SPEECH *of* VVilliam *Earl of* Annandale, *Lord Preſident of the Parliament of* Scotland,

On *Thurſday* the Ninth of *May*, 1695.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am very ſenſible it is a great and undeſerved Honour, that I have his Majeſties Commands to preſide in this Seſſion of Parliament; for I know well my inſufficiency and unfitneſs, to Diſcharge ſo important a Truſt, but Duty calls, and I muſt obey.

I do therefore rely upon his Majeſties goodneſs, who I know, has thoſe Allowances to give, which the accidental Failings and Eſcapes of His Servants may require; And I am convinced, that the ſame Zeal and Forwardneſs which has formerly appeared in all the Proceedings of this Parliament, for His Majeſties true Intereſt, the Support and Honour of His Government, will yet ſhow it ſelf amongſt Us; and it is You I hope, will make this Station eaſy to me.

Here lyes my great Encouragement and Confidence, that my Defects and Wants ſhall be covered and ſupplyed, by a cheerful and ready Complyance from this Honourable and Great Meeting, with all His Majeſties ſo juſt and reaſonable Demands.

And now, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, it may be expected that I ſhould enlarge upon every Particular, which His Majeſty by His Gracious Letter, and his Grace My Lord Commiſſioner in his Speech, has recommended to you, whereby you may ſee His Majeſty asks not for himſelf, He only prevents Our neceſſary Cares, for it is Our own ſafety and ſecurity that requires the diſpatch of all of them; but his Grace has ſo fully and diſtinctly ſpoke upon all the ſeveral Heads, and they do ſo effectually ſpeak and recommend themſelves, that I am perſwaded, there remains a Conviction upon Us all, and I ſhall but touch ſome few of them.

The firſt makes way for it ſelf, a Supply for ſubſiſting of the Forces which are now on foot, or what more may be judged neceſſar for preſerving and ſecuring the Peace and Quiet of this Kingdom. For let Us conſider, His Majeſty engaged in Forreign Wars againſt the Enemies of our Religion and Liberties, and that we bear no ſhare of the Expenſe.

Or if we reflect on His expoſing his Sacred Perſon (I may ſay too liberally) to all the Dangers and Accidents of War, upon whoſe Safety depends, God knows, not only Our happineſs, but the happineſs of *Europe*, we muſt all as good Proteſtants, and good Countrey-men, eſteem it Our Honour and Credit, as well as Our Intereſt, to give now cheerfully, what the Honour and Security of his Majeſties Government calls for.

And ſince We are Happy and Eaſie under it, let Us uſe our outmoſt Endeavours that this Ineſtimable Bleſſing may not only be Continued with Us, but handed down to Our Poſterity.

I think

I Think I need ſcarce Mind you, how much the Honour of the Nation, and Our Trade has ſuffered, by the Want of ſome Ships of War, for the Guard of Our Coaſts, *and Convoys*; This is not only our Loſs in general, but I believe many who hear Me, may be now Senſibly Touched with their own particular Loſſes; ſo that I need not Uſe Arguments to Enforce this, nor can I Doubt your Forwardneſs to Provide againſt It in Time coming; and it is no Small Encouragment that Our King propoſes only thoſe Things to Us, which are Our own Advantage to Grant.

I ſhall but ſhortly take Notice of the Freſh Aſſurances We have of His *Majeſties* Gracious and Firm Reſolutions to Maintain the *Presbyterian-Government* of this Church, as now by Law Eſtabliſhed; And I Hope the Moderation and Calmneſs that ſhall at this *Time* Appear in all Our *Proceedings* in *Church Matters*, will Satisfie the World that this is the Government moſt Agreeable to the Temper and Inclination of this *People*, and moſt Sutable for the Intereſt and *Support* of Our *King*, the Civil Government, and *Peace* of this Kingdom.

I Fear to Spend too much of your Time, and am ſenſible, You cannot Beſtow it worſe; but *I* Hope You'l Allow me to Wiſh, there may be Unanimitie and Calmneſs in all Our Proceedings, and that We *Abſtain* from all Heats and Animoſities, laying aſide Privat Ends and Deſigns, that ſo We may with all Expedition Finiſh the Work We have before Us; and thus We ſhall not only raiſe Our *Reputation Abroad*, but Satisfie His Majeſtie, We *Deſerve* the Truſt, He has *Repoſed* in Us, when He himſelf is out of *Britain*.

And can there be a greater Inducement, or a ſtronger Argument to Encourage *Us*, then that We have a King, who is not only careful to Govern Us by Our ſtanding Law, but as We may ſee, has now Inſtructed His Grace, My Lord Commiſſioner, that ſuch New Laws may be Made, and Old Ones ſo Rectified, as may be Judged moſt for the Intereſt, Safety, and Eaſe of His Subjects.

There is yet *One* Thing, which I ſhall but Name, that does juſtly Challenge a more than ordinarie Zeal and Fervour in *Our* Duty at this Time, and it is the Sad and Irreparable Loſs We have Suſtained of the Beſt of Queens, *I* Inſiſt not upon it, for it were to Renew Your Grief, and *I* ſhall only Wiſh (*My Lords and Gentlemen*) We may All of Us make this Uſe of it, that as now the Whole Soveraignity is Lodged in His Majeſty, it may appear by Our Actings, that We have Doubled our Forwardneſs and Endeavours to ſerve Him, which is the only way now left *Us*, to Show Our Juſt Senſe of this inexpreſſible Loſs, and to make it in ſome *Meaſure*, more Supportable by His Majeſty.

And as We Ought to Give Him all the Aſſurances *Imaginable*, that We will Effectually Maintain and Support His Intereſt and Government, againſt All His Enemies; So when We put a Juſt Value upon ſo great a Bleſſing, it may be a prevailing *Mean* with *GOD* to Continue Him long and Proſperouſly with Us.

FINIS.

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